



Congresswoman Lois Capps

Special Report to Ventura County

Dear Friend:

I have served in Congress for five years. Since January, it has been my great privilege to represent the newly drawn 23rd District, which includes Oxnard, the City of Port Hueneme, part of the City of Ventura, and El Río.

As your Representative, my job is to listen to your views about the issues facing our neighborhoods and our nation. I also want to help with problems you may be experiencing with the federal government. That's why I immediately opened a Congressional office in Ventura County. It is located at 141 South A Street, Suite 204, Oxnard, CA 93030. The telephone number is 385-3440.

I welcome your visits, phone calls, faxes, and letters to my Ventura County office, as well as my Washington office. Please take a moment to visit my website, www.house.gov/capps. You can also easily send me an email by accessing my website and clicking "Contact Lois" and "Write Your Representative."

In recent weeks, I've spent a great deal of time in Ventura County, meeting with community organizations; elected officials; business, education, and civic leaders; and other individuals. These meetings have helped shape my agenda in Congress, and this newsletter reports on some of these important issues.

You can count on me to represent the diverse and dynamic communities of Ventura County to the best of my ability.

Sincerely,

Lois Capps
Member of Congress

Querido Amigo:

Por cinco años he sido miembro del Congreso de nuestro país. Desde Enero, ha sido un gran privilegio representar al recién diseñado Distrito Electoral 23. Esto incluye a la Ciudad de Oxnard, la Ciudad de Port Hueneme, parte de la ciudad de Ventura, y El Río.

Como su representate, mi trabajo es oír sus puntos de vista sobre los problemas en la comunidad y en nuestro país. También puedo ayudar con problemas relacionados con el gobierno federal. Por eso yo abrí una oficina en el Condado de Ventura. El domicilio de la oficina es 141 South A Street, Suite 204, Oxnard, CA 93030. El numero de teléfono es 385-3440.

Sus visitas, llamadas telefónicas, faxes, y cartas a mi oficina en Oxnard son bienvenidas así como también a mi oficina en Washington. Por favor tome un momento para visitar a mi sitio de Internet, www.house.gov/capps. O tambien me podrían mandar una carta por el sistema de correo electrónico, simplemente vaya a mi sitio de Internet y oprima la frase "Contact Lois" o "Write Your Representative."

En las ultimas semanas, he pasado mucho tiempo en el Condado de Ventura, reuniéndome con organizaciones de la comunidad, miembros de gobierno, negociantes, educadores, lideres comunitarios, y otras personalidades. Estas reuniones me han ayudado a formular mi agenda en el Congreso, y este boletín le reporta algunos de los temas más importantes.

Pueden contar con que yo representare las diversas y dinámicas comunidades del Condado de Ventura lo mejor posible.

Sinceramente,

Lois Capps
Miembro del Congreso

Providing Quality Health Care

Now more than ever, it is critical that our nation's health care system is strong. Our doctors and nurses are the backbone of this system, and I've been working to make sure they have the support they need to do their job for patients in Ventura County and across the country.

As one of only three registered nurses in Congress, I understand the burden the nationwide nursing shortage has on our capacity to handle every day medical needs, as well as our preparedness for a homeland security emergency. That's why last year, I introduced and enacted the Nurse Reinvestment Act, which provides scholarships, loans, and other strategies to recruit and retain nursing professionals.

Many doctors on the South and Central Coasts have been penalized by cuts in Medicare payment rates, and were going to be forced to stop treating Medicare patients or retire from practice altogether. A doctor shortage would have devastating



consequences – for our seniors and everybody else. The first bill I introduced this year was to stop a huge cut in payment rates to physicians, and just a few weeks later, Congress passed legislation to do just that.

The lack of prescription drug coverage is a serious hole in the Medicare safety net and a crisis for seniors and their families. As a member of the House Budget Committee, I was proud to offer a comprehensive Medicare prescription drug benefit proposal. My plan is voluntary, and provides an affordable benefit to every senior in the Medicare system. In contrast, the Republican plan would turn drug coverage over to the private insurance industry, and force seniors into HMOs to get the coverage they need. This is a gamble we cannot afford—our seniors deserve the guarantee of coverage provided by Medicare.



Congresswoman Lois Capps discusses military personnel matters with Commander Eric Gunn of the Naval Reserves at the official opening of her Oxnard office. Congresswoman Capps strongly supports our men and women in the armed forces.

Protecting Our Environment

Here in Ventura County, we are blessed with truly spectacular natural resources. Protecting our environment is our obligation to future generations. It also makes good economic sense.

I have led the fight in Congress to stop any new oil drilling off the California coast. Last summer, the House overwhelmingly passed my amendment to block any development of the 36 oil leases off the coasts of Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo counties.

Time and time again, coastal communities have been ravaged by disastrous oil spills from single-hulled oil tankers. The Ventura County Star reported in January that a damaged tanker carrying over one million gallons of crude oil traveled from Long Beach to San Francisco after an anchor had pierced a hole in its bow. I introduced the Stop Oil Spills (S.O.S.) Act, which would

speed up the phase-out of more dangerous single-hulled oil tankers, replace them with safer double-hulled ships, and create a 100-mile coastal safety zone. If enacted, the S.O.S. Act would greatly reduce the potential that a catastrophic oil spill would devastate our environment and economy.

Families deserve to know their drinking water is safe. Unfortunately, our area is known to be contaminated with MTBE – a gasoline additive that has leaked out of underground storage tanks into groundwater supplies. There are more than 50 contaminated sites in Ventura County, including serious levels of MTBE in Oxnard, El Rio, and Port Hueneme. That's why I've introduced the Drinking Water Protection Act that would allow Congress to spend up to \$200 million from an existing fund to ensure prompt and appropriate clean-up of the leaking tanks.

Working for Community Priorities

During the short time I have represented Ventura County, I have attended dozens of events and meetings in order to become a strong advocate for the needs of our community.

I recently convened a meeting at Pacifica High School of more than 30 superintendents, principals, and school board members to kick off my School Modernization and Technology Survey, which was sent to all Ventura County schools in the 23rd district. The results of this survey will be very helpful in my efforts to bring critical federal assistance to local schools.



Touring the Port of Hueneme and Naval Base Ventura County has reinforced my views that a unique spirit of cooperation characterizes these two remarkable resources. The activities at the base and port are critical to our

national security and economic vitality. That's why, as Congress considers major transportation legislation, I am working very hard to secure funds for the Port of Hueneme Intermodal Access Improvement Project. This initiative will enhance the Port's productivity while protecting the quality of life in the surrounding communities.

I am also pushing for federal funds to complete the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project. The massive build-up of sediment behind the dam is causing numerous environmental problems, including beach erosion and threats to the steelhead trout. This funding will help ensure that the complete removal of the dam is carried out in a safe and environmentally sound manner. Ultimately, the dam project will yield enormous ecological and economic benefits to Ventura County.

Ventura County's network of social service providers is very impressive. My office works closely with the dedicated staff at El Concilio del Condado de Ventura on a range of health care, education, immigration, and crime prevention programs for the Latino community. I was proud to speak at the annual Ventura County Women's Health Symposium and

the Future Connections Health Luncheon. And I recently met with a number of community advocates to discuss my bill, the Domestic Violence Screening, Treatment and Prevention Act.

Congresswoman Lois Capps recently convened a meeting in the nation's capital between officials of the Port of Hueneme and key Washington, DC policymakers. Pictured (left to right) are Commissioner Raymond E. Fosse, California Congressman Sam Farr, Rep. Capps, and Jess Herrera, President, Board of Commissioners. The meeting focused on the Port's legislative priorities.

Congressional Issues Survey

In order to help me represent our community, it would be very helpful if you would spend a few moments looking over the following list of issues under consideration in Congress. Please check the two or three issues most important to you and mail this survey to my office.

- ☐ Preserving Social Security
- ☐ Providing prescription drug coverage under Medicare
- ☐ Making health care more affordable for families
- ☐ Cutting taxes
- ☐ Balancing the federal budget
- ☐ Investing more in elementary and secondary education
- ☐ Reducing the costs of higher education
- ☐ Supporting our veterans
- ☐ Maintaining a strong national defense
- ☐ Creating jobs and economic opportunity
- ☐ Preserving a woman's right to choose
- ☐ Stopping oil drilling off the coast

- ☐ Protecting the environment
- ☐ Upholding the rights of immigrants
- ☐ Creating affordable housing opportunities
- ☐ Other _____

Name of person who filled out the survey

Please cut out this survey – making sure the address label is on the back – put it in a stamped envelope and mail it in. Please mail to:

Congresswoman Lois Capps
141 South A Street – Suite 204
Oxnard, CA 93030

Si quisiera recibir esta encuesta en Espanol, por favor llame a mi oficina al 385-3440.

Congresswoman Lois Capps Sponsors
Community Issues Forums

*Please join leading policy experts from our area for timely discussions on important issues before Congress.
Feel free to contact my Oxnard office if you have any questions.*

***The Future of Social Security
and Medicare***

***Tuesday, April 15th
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.***

Wilson Senior Center
350 North C Street, Oxnard
(light refreshments will be served)

***The Importance of Quality
Health Care***

***Monday, April 21st
5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.***

Oxnard Library
251 A Street
Oxnard

***The State of Education
in Our Community***

***Wednesday, April 23th
7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.***

Oxnard High School
Performing Arts Theater
3400 West Gonzales Road, Oxnard



*Congresswoman Lois Capps
discusses Medicare with Marilyn
Rothwell of the Area Agency on
Aging. One of Congresswoman
Capps' upcoming community
forums will be devoted to issues
important to our seniors.*

***How to Contact
Congresswoman Capps***

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



Lois Capps

M.C.
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